



**Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Pharmacy Benefits Management Strategic Health Group
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**Pharmacy Benefits Management Strategic Healthcare Group-VA
Medical Advisory Panel (PBM-MAP) and Employee Education System (EES)
Distance Learning Broadcasts**

The Pharmacy Benefits Management Strategic Healthcare Group (PBM), VA Medical Advisory Panel (MAP) and the VHA Employee Education System (EES) are pleased to announce the creation of the PBM-MAP Distance Learning Broadcasts. This initiative will utilize the EES VA Knowledge Network and the VHA VANTS system as a learning platform for delivering programs that are rich in content, timely and highly interactive on the beneficial use and application of selected pharmaceuticals in the care of veterans.

The partnership of PBM-MAP and EES will allow the development of timely programs to occur and maximize the contribution each can provide in order for this initiative to provide competitive and innovative educational programs. EES will provide experts in the design and development of the educational programs; satellite video Producers/Directors and technical staff to support and assure broadcasts has excellent production values. PBM-MAP, with input from the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Formulary Leaders will provide the content expertise, identify experts and authorities to ensure the selection of topics are timely, are of scientific accuracy, and are clinically applicable for practice for the veteran population.

The goal of the PBM-MAP Broadcasts is to assure that VHA health care professionals, VHA leaders and managers are well informed about the responsible use of pharmaceuticals in the care of veterans and that the information is timely and presented within the context of contemporary drug therapy management goals of the Department. To assure that this goal is achieved, the PBM-MAP Broadcasts are governed and advised by a steering committee composed of PBM clinical staff, MAP members, VISN Formulary Leaders (VFL) and EES staff. The PBM-MAP Broadcast Steering Committee will maintain an active dialog with VA Clinical Chief Consultants, private sector and other governmental pharmaceutical practitioners and researchers regarding program selection and appropriateness of content.

Each PBM-MAP Distance Learning Program will be available for viewing by all VHA staff, VA Central Office, private sector and other governmental healthcare organizations in more than 170 VA healthcare facilities. Target audiences identified for each topic will include but not be limited to medical and non-medical personnel, leaders, and managers at VAHQ and VISN staff members. All programs will provide a flexible viewing schedule and allow all appropriate VA staff to have access to the rebroadcasts a minimum of three times. As the program matures, PBM-MAP staff will explore opportunities to invite Department of Defense (DoD) clinical leaders to join the partnership and to make the broadcasts available to DoD personnel.

Continuing education credit will be provided to those viewing the one-hour broadcasts followed by an interactive audio conference between the audience and expert presenters. EES anticipates providing CE for all VA pharmacists, physicians, and nurses. Provision of CE to other selected professional groups will be provided depending on the content of the program.